

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated August 22, 2007, claims 18 and 21 are objected to.

Claims 1-8 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Goldberg(US 5601580). Claims 9 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldberg in view of Nobles(US 5026383). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Goldberg in view of Nobles and further in view of Iwatschenko (US 4306563). Claim 11 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Goldberg in view of Nobles in view of Iwatschenko, and further in view of Weiss (US 4880412). Claims 14-18, 21-23 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Goldberg in view of Ouriel (US 4952215). Claim 19 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Goldberg in view of Ouriel, and further in view of Sekino (US 4977902). Claim 20 was also rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Goldberg in view of Ouriel, and further in view of Sinofsky (US 5196004).

In response to the action, claim 1 has been canceled, and claims 2 and 13 have been amended to clarify the features of the invention. Claims 18 and 21 have been amended to overcome the objections, and claim 24 has been newly added. Other claims have been editorially amended. No new matter has been entered. Specification has been amended to collect editorial mistakes.

In the action, it was indicated that Goldberg discloses a stem, a cutter head, a leader, a catheter, a male threaded portion, prongs, and a handle. It was also indicated that Goldberg teaches that a connecting means are male and female screws (Fig. 4A).

With those elements stated above, Goldberg primarily focuses on its design for the cutter head for in-situ incision. According to Goldberg, neither the stem nor catheter is designed to be connected each other through any intermediate wires or catheters for adjusting the entire length of the wire or catheter.

Compared to Goldberg, in claim 2, it is recited that the stripping wire comprises at least one intermediate wire or wires connecting first and second wires so that the length of the stripping wire can be adjustable. Also, a rear end portion is connected to the second connecting means at the other end of the second wire. Thus, Goldberg does not disclose each and every element of claim 2.

In claim 13, it is also recited that the stripping catheter comprises at least one intermediate catheter or catheters connecting first and second catheters so that the length of the stripping catheter can be adjustable. Also, a rear end portion is connected to the second connecting means at the other end of the second catheter. Thus, Goldberg does not disclose each and every element of claim 13.

Further, in the invention in claims 2 and 13, a vein ligating portion is formed by at least one connecting portion between the first connecting means and the second connecting means of the wires or catheters, the insert head or rear end portion to introvert and remove the vein. Goldberg does not disclose the vein ligating portion.

Therefore, claims 2 and 13 and their dependent claim are not anticipated by Goldberg.

Rejections over all dependent claims from claim 2 should be also withdrawn because the dependent claims further limit the scope of claim 2.

As for the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Goldberg in view of Nobles, Iwatschenko, Weiss, Ouriel, Sekino and Sinofsky, Nobles teaches a wire having outer diameter of 2.0 or 2.5 mm to allow the catheter to be inserted into the desired portion of a vein; Iwatschenko teaches a coating of silicon resin to increase the compatibility within the body and to prevent toxic reactions; Weiss teaches a catheter with marks at regular intervals; Ouriel

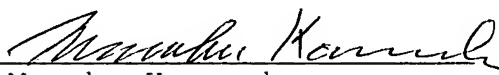
teaches a valvulotome with a fluid supply comprising a fluid supply and a fluid coupling; Sekino teaches a supersonic irradiating means; and Sinofsky teaches a laser that delivers irradiating energy to a biological tissue for removal or repair. Nobles, Iwatschenko, Weiss, Ouriel, Sekino and Sinofsky do not teach or suggest the particular structure of the present invention or at least one intermediate wire. Therefore, even a combination of the Goldberg and other references would not be able to teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

As explained above, the cited references do not disclose or suggest the features of the invention. Even if the cited references are combined, claims of the application are patentable over the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

One month extension of time is hereby requested. A credit card authorization form in the amount of \$60.00 is attached herewith for the one month extension of time.

Respectfully Submitted,

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